

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not relax any further the already weak limitations on the ownership of media and news organizations or outlets by individual companies in specific markets. Democracy depends on the ability of the governed to obtain a diverse set of views on issues that affect them. As news organizations have become increasingly centralized and under the control of a few large corporations, diversity and dissent in the mass media market have almost disappeared. And, the mass media market is where the vast majority of the American public get their information.

FCC Chairman Powell stated in late 2001, regarding the creation of the Media Ownership Working Group.
"The studies performed by the MOWG are the first step in developing a sound empirical basis for FCC media ownership policies that promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market."

Relaxing already feeble ownership rules will only decrease competition, diversity, and localism!

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Roger Pierno